GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6363
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
EX GRATIA ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Yadav Shri Hukamdeo Narayan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference in sanctioning ex-gratia assistance to the next kin of farmers who have committed suicide amongst States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether several farmers in the country have committed suicide due to failure of seeds which were supplied by certain seed companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them;

(e) whether the Government proposes to constitute farmer advisory committee at panchayat level in affected areas to implement the ongoing schemes by taking their opinion; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Sanction of ex-gratia assistance to the next of kin of farmers who have committed suicide is prerogative of respective State Governments and it varies from state to state. As per information available, State Government of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have provided ex-gratia of Rs.1 lakh to the next of kin of farmers who have committed suicide. No such assistance is provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Information is not available in respect of Punjab.

(c) & (d): Causes of suicides by farmers, as reported by the State Government, are manifold which inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal. However, for regulating quality of seeds and curbing the sale of substandard/spurious seeds, provisions are available under the Seed Act., 1966 and Seed Rule 1968 and Seed (Control) Order 1983. State Governments are fully empowered to take action in all such cases at their level. Seed Inspectors notified under relevant provisions of these legal instruments have power to draw samples, seize the stock and issue 'Stop Sale Order' and file prosecution in the court if, the seed under reference contravenes the provisions of law.

(e) & (f): Under the Scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" there is a provision for constitution of block level, district level and state level Farmers Advisory Committees in all the states which act as agencies for providing farmers' feedback and input for preparation/compilation of action plans and for prioritization of activities under Extension Reforms Programme.